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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/588,014

06/19/2008

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EXAMINER

CONNELLY CUSHWA, MICHELLE R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2874

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/588,014	Applicant(s) VAN DER STEEN, HENDRIKUS PETRUS GIJSBER	
	Examiner MICHELLE R. CONNELLY CUSHWA	Art Unit 2874	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 August 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/1/06, 10/22/07</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

The prior art documents submitted by applicant in the Information Disclosure Statements filed on August 1, 2006 and October 22, 2007 have all been considered and made of record (note the attached copies of form PTO-1449).

Drawings

Six (6) sheets of formal drawings were filed August 1, 2006 and have been accepted by the Examiner.

Specification

Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-9, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwano et al. (US 5,121,454).

Regarding claims 1, 3 and 11; Iwano et al. discloses an optical connector system (see Figures 2-5) comprising:

- a backpanel (5);
- a substrate (1);
- at least one substrate housing assembly (34);
- at least one backpanel housing assembly (33);
- an established optical interface; and
- a further housing assembly (36) slidably mounted in a z-direction of and accommodated within the substrate housing assembly (it is noted that the sliding direction may be arbitrarily defined to be the z-direction).

Regarding claims 2 and 12; the substrate housing assembly (34) comprises a biasing arrangement (37 and 38 for a first engaging portion and biasing arrangement; 38 is an elastic lever) for the further housing (36) adapted to release the further housing substantially after completion of the optical interface (the first engaging portion releases the further housing, 36, after the further housing and the backpanel housing are engaged; see Figures 3a-3d, where 3d shows the biasing arrangement releasing the further housing from the substrate housing assembly).

Regarding claim 4; the substrate housing assembly (34) comprises a first interface part (35) for establishing the optical interface with a second interface part (32) at the backpanel housing assembly (33).

Regarding claim 5; the second interface part (32) is integrated in the backpanel (5).

Regarding claim 6; the backpanel (5) comprises a cavity for forming the second interface part at the backpanel housing assembly (33).

Regarding claim 7; the further housing (36) comprises the first interface part (35).

Regarding claim 8; the further housing (36) comprises at least one ferrule assembly (35) for optical fibers for the interface part and alignment elements to align the first interface part and the second interface part (the contour of the housings, as well as the engage and release portions may all be considered to be alignment elements since the optical connectors must be aligned for these parts to interconnect as shown).

Regarding claim 9; the backpanel housing assembly and the substrate housing assembly comprise locking elements (engaging portions; see Figures 3a-3j) adapted to lock the housings after completion of the optical interface.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwano et al. (US 5,131,454).

Regarding claim 10; Iwano et al. teaches that the invention is for use with boards on each of which various optical and electrical components are mounted (see column 1,

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lines 5-15). The backpanel and the substrate inherently comprise one or more first and second electrical contacts, respectively, in order to provide electricity to the electrical components that are accommodated therein. One of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to provide the electrical contacts in a manner that the he connection between the backpanel housing assembly and the substrate housing assembly provides electrical connection between the first and second electrical contacts after the optical interface has been established in order to provide the necessary electrical signals to operate the electrical and optical components contained within the housings, as this is routinely done in the art.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Kiani et al. (US 6,769,814 B2); Chen et al. (US 6,364,536 B1); and Gherardini (US 6,776,533 B2).

Any inquiry concerning the merits of this communication should be directed to Examiner Michelle R. Connelly-Cushwa at telephone number (571) 272-2345. The examiner can normally be reached 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Porta can be reached on (571) 272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general or clerical nature should be directed to the Technology Center 2800 receptionist at telephone number (571) 272-1562.

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/Michelle R. Connelly-Cushwa/
Primary Patent Examiner
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